DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 391 524 IR 017 677

TITLE	Student Use of Computers. Indicator of the Month.
INSTITUTION	National Center for Education Statistics (ED), Washington, D.C.
REPORT NO	NCES-96-792
PUB DATE	Dec 95
NOTE	4p.; Extracted from "The Condition of Education, 1995."
PUB TYPE	Statistical Data (110)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Comparative Analysis; Computer Literacy; Computer Uses in Education; Data Analysis; *Demography; Elementary Secondary Education; Ethnicity; Public Schools; Readiness; *School Statistics; Socioeconomic Status; *Student Surveys; Tables (Data); Technological Literacy; *Trend Analysis
IDENTIFIERS	*Access to Computers; *Computer Use; Home Computers

ABSTRACT

Exposure to computers in school may help young people gain the computer literacy they will need to function effectively in society. The amount of access to computers at home is often directly related to socioeconomic factors. Examining the extent to which students have access to computers either at school or at home may help predict how prepared they will be to enter an automated work force. The demographics of student computer use are outlined: (1) more than two-thirds of all students in grades 1-12 used a computer at home or at school in 1993, with 59% using a computer at school; (2) percentages of students using a computer at school and at home have more than doubled from 1984 to 1993. School use increased from 29% to 59%, while home use went up from 12% to 28%; (3) Whites were more likely than Blacks or Hispanics to use a computer at home or at school. Approximately 40% of blacks and Hispanics did not use computers at all in 1993, compared to 20% of their white counterparts; (4) between 1984 and 1993 the proportions of students in grades 7-12 who used a computer at home or at school increased at similar levels across family income. Two tables are provided, both entitled "Percentage of students who used a computer at school or at home, by selected characteristics: October 1984, 1989, and 1993." Each table groups students by ethnicity and family income level and presents separate data for grades 1-6 and 7-12. The first table offers numerical percentages, while the second illustrates the data with bar graphs. (BEW)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)
☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

ED 391 524

Indicator of the Month:
Student use of computers
December 1995

by U.S. Dept. of Education

IR017677

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

December 1995

Student use of computers

In our increasingly technological society, computers are an essential tool. Exposure to computers in school may help young people gain the computer literacy they will need to function effectively in society. Many students have access to computers at home, but the amount of access is directly related to socioeconomic factors. Examining the extent to which students have access to computers either at home or in school may help predict how prepared students will be to enter an automated work force.

- **In 1993, more than two-thirds of all students in grades 1–12 used a computer either at home or at school, with a majority, 59 percent, using a computer at school.**
- **The percentage of students using a computer at school more than doubled between 1984 and 1993, increasing from 29 to 59 percent. Twenty-eight percent of students used a computer at home in 1993, up from 12 percent in 1984.**
- **Whites were more likely than blacks or Hispanics to use a computer either at home or at school, both in grades 1–6 and in grades 1–12. In 1993, approximately 40 percent of blacks and Hispanics in grades 1–6 did not use computers at all compared to 20 percent of their white counterparts.**
- **Between 1984 and 1993, the proportions of students in grades 7–12 who used a computer either at home or at school increased at similar levels across family income. On one hand, the gain for low income students can be explained primarily by their increased use of computers at school, which rose 32 percentage points; on the other, the gain for high income students can be explained by their increased use of computers at school, which rose 30 percentage points, and at home, which rose 29 percentage points.**

Percentage of students who used a computer at school or at home, by selected characteristics: October 1984, 1989, and 1993

Current education level, race/ethnicity, and family income level*	1984			1989			1993		
	Used a computer at school	Used a computer at home	Used a computer at home or at school	Used a computer at school	Used a computer at home	Used a computer at home or at school	Used a computer at school	Used a computer at home	Used a computer at home or at school
Total (Grades 1–12)	**28.5**	**12.0**	**35.0**	**45.6**	**19.8**	**53.7**	**59.0**	**27.8**	**68.1**
Grades 1–6									
Total	**31.3**	**12.1**	**37.2**	**54.1**	**16.6**	**58.8**	**69.7**	**24.1**	**74.0**
White	36.4	14.8	43.4	60.6	20.9	66.3	74.9	30.5	80.1
Black	15.5	5.3	18.8	36.0	6.2	37.9	56.6	8.7	59.1
Hispanic	16.9	3.6	19.1	42.5	5.2	43.7	57.8	7.1	59.5
Low income	19.1	2.5	20.6	40.9	3.3	42.0	59.8	4.0	60.5
Middle income	30.2	10.0	35.4	54.0	13.5	58.1	69.1	18.8	72.6
High income	43.4	25.0	54.5	64.4	34.6	73.0	78.4	51.4	87.3
Grades 7–12									
Total	**30.7**	**14.3**	**38.5**	**47.0**	**23.0**	**57.0**	**61.2**	**29.7**	**70.4**
White	33.6	17.1	43.0	49.0	27.6	61.0	63.5	37.0	74.8
Black	20.0	5.4	22.6	41.8	9.7	45.4	55.1	11.1	58.3
Hispanic	22.9	3.9	25.1	38.9	10.2	43.3	56.7	10.2	60.5
Low income	21.8	3.6	24.3	42.3	6.6	44.9	53.3	6.1	54.8
Middle income	30.2	10.8	35.7	46.3	18.4	54.3	61.2	23.7	68.4
High income	35.8	26.1	50.4	50.9	41.3	68.9	65.5	55.3	83.0

* Low income is the bottom 20 percent of all family incomes; high income is the top 20 percent of all family incomes; and middle income is the 60 percent in-between.

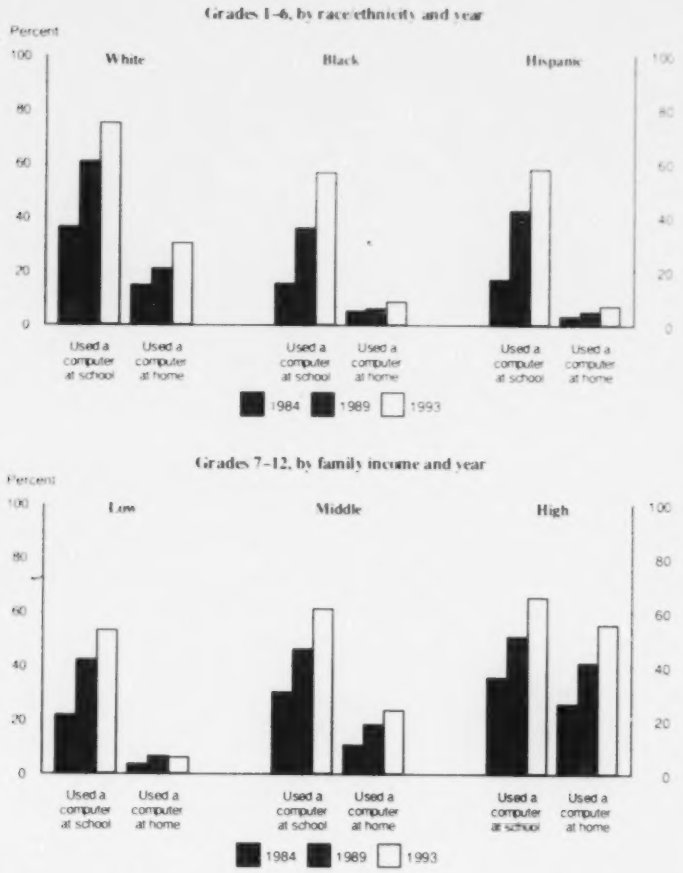
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October Current Population Surveys.

U.S. Department of Education

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

NCES 96–792

Percentage of students who used a computer at school or at home, by selected characteristics: 1984, 1989, and 1993



* Low income is the bottom 20 percent of all family incomes; high income is the top 20 percent of all family incomes; and middle income is the 60 percent in-between.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October Current Population Surveys.

This indicator is extracted from *The Condition of Education, 1995*. It is in the public domain and all or part may be reproduced with appropriate cite. Suggested citation: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *The Condition of Education, 1995*, Washington, D.C., 1995. To obtain a copy of the full volume of *The Condition of Education*, call the Government Printing Office Order and Information Desk at (202) 512-1800, order number S/N 065–000–00791–6 ($34.00).

United States
Department of Education
Washington, DC 20208–5650

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, $300

Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. Department of Education
Permit No. G–17

FIRST CLASS

BEST COPY AVAILABLE